



Book	Policy Manual
Section	6000 INSTRUCTION
Title	Controversial Issues 5-9-2022
Code	BP 6144
Status	Under Review/Revision
Cross References	BP 1312.1 - Public Complaints Concerning School Personnel BP 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Material BP 4119.25 - Political Activities of Employees BP 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression BP 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs
Adopted	January 16, 2006

The School Board believes that students should have opportunities to discuss controversial issues which have political, social or economic significance and which the students are mature enough to investigate and address. The study of a controversial issue should help students learn how to gather and organize pertinent facts, discriminate between fact and fiction, draw intelligent conclusions, and respect the opinions of others.

The Board expects teachers to exercise caution and discretion when deciding whether or not a particular issue is suitable for study or discussion in any particular class. Teachers should not spend class time on any topic which they feel is not suitable for the class or related to the established course of study.

The Board also expects teachers to be impartial and ensure that all sides of a controversial issue are presented, with adequate and appropriate factual information. Without promoting any partisan point of view, the teacher should help students separate fact from opinion and warn them against drawing conclusions from insufficient data. The teacher shall not suppress any student's view on the issue as long as its expression is not malicious or abusive toward others.

**The instruction shall not reflect adversely upon persons because of their race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, religion, or any other basis prohibited by law.**

**Teachers sponsoring guest speakers shall either ask them not to use their position or influence on students to forward their own religious, political, economic or social views or shall take active steps to neutralize whatever bias has been presented.**

*Legal Reference:*

*ALASKA STATUTES*

*14.03.090 Partisan, sectarian or denominational doctrines prohibited*